AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 6. NO. 35. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1916. WHOLE NO. 295.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

BROTHERHOOD CHIEFS AND UNIONISTS MEET

Baltimore, Nov. 25.—Representatives of the four railroad brotherhoods, comprising 400,000 workers, and representatives of trade unions, comprising nearly 2,500,000 men and women in shop, factory and mine, grasped hands at the A. F. of L. convention last Tuesday and pledged joint action for the workers' cause.

"We all face the same problem," declared Grand Chief Carter of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen; Grand Chief Lee of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen; Grand Chief Stone of the Brotherhood of Railroad Engineers, presiding; President Sheppard of the Order of Railway Conductors, and President Gompers.

The rail chiefs made it clear that their first appearance at an American Federation of Labor convention was not caused by a desire that trade unionists should fight their battles, but because, as Grand Chief Lee stated: "I am ready to declare to the world that we are going to stand by the eight-hour day for every class of labor, and, if we can't get it peacefully, we'll fight for it." The speaker also declared that "we're nearer being affiliated with the American Federation of Labor than we've ever dreamed of."

Messrs. Sheppard, Stone and Carter spoke in the same strain and electrified the delegates, who responded with out astint at these declarations of solidarity and fraternity.

President Gompers' speech was a fitting climax to this historic incident.

"They have the right to antagonize us," he said, "notwithstanding that their movement represents dollars, while our movement represents men and women and childhood, and all I can say to you men of wealth, be careful how far you go with it. There is a limit to what humanity will stand. You have thrown down the gauntlet; we will accept the challenge.

"And when it comes, we will quote from the greatest hard to be word ever had, 'Lay on Macduff, and damned be he who first cries, hold, enough.' Men of these brotherhoods, can count on organized labor. You'll find that we'll ring true and stand true."

UNIONISTS VISIT PRESIDENT.

Washington, Nov. 25.—Over 500 delegates and visitors to the A. F. of L. convention at Baltimore journeyed to this city last Saturday on a special train to pay their respects to the chief executive of the nation.

After inspecting the new A. F. of L. building, the delegation, headed by a brass band, marched to the White House. President Gompers introduced to the president the congratulations of that body upon his re-election and their wishes for a successful administration.

President Wilson, in a short speech, said, in part:

"Nothing alarms America so much as rift, division, the setting apart of elements among her people, and the thing we ought all to strive for is to close up every rift, and the best way to do it, so far as I can see, is to establish justice, but justice with a heart in it, justice with a pulse in it, justice with sympathy in it. Justice can be cold and forbidding, or it can be warm and welcome, and I think the only kind of justice that Americans ought to have."

The occasion was the first of its kind in the history of the American Federation of Labor.

ORGANIZATION THE THING.

Chicago, Nov. 25.—Editor Sweeney, editor of The Tailor, official newspaper of the Journeymen Tailors' union, places more importance on the power of organization than on employers' signatures to contracts.

"Any trade, well organized," he writes, "could enforce union conditions in any shop without a signed agreement, and if it is not well organized union conditions will not prevail.

"Some time ago we received a letter from a secretary of a local union. He stated that the employer gave his word of an employer in lieu of his signature. He said: 'We will see to it that he keep his word.' By that he meant that the union would continue to work position to those conditions in the shop. We have had no complaint from that union up to the present time and that agreement so long as the union is well organized. Organization is of more importance than a signature to an agreement."

OPPOSE "NO-STRIKE" LAW.

Denver, Nov. 25.—Secretary-Treasurer Anderson of the Colorado federation of labor urges Colorado trade unionists to prepare for the coming session of the state legislature, which will consider the repeal of the industrial commission law, which denies workers in any industry the right to strike before the commission investigates the dispute. This legislation is modeled after the Canadian Industrial dispute act, which applies to public utilities. The repeal of this law is declared by Anderson to be of paramount interest to the workers of Colorado by the last convention of the state federation of labor.

Other legislation that will be urged includes the enactment of an anti-injunction law; a seven-hour work day to apply to employes of railroads; a firemen's pension law and the enactment of a public defender law.

GAIN WEIGHT IN JAIL.

Detroit, Mich., Nov. 25.—Striking cigar girls have been jailed because they dared to violate a police order, and the Detroit Labor News makes this cutting comment on the causes of the strike:

"Very good evidence that the striking cigar girls have not been receiving living wages is evinced in the fact that the three little girls who were sentenced by Judge Frankhauser to spend 15 days apiece in the county jail, for contempt of court, have gained on an average of 11 pounds each, after having received three square meals a day."

EASTERN WIRE MEN STRIKE.

Waterbury, Conn., Nov. 25.—Electrical Workers' union is winning its demand for an eight-hour day, increased pay and the union shop. The New England Engineering company, which does business throughout the state, is the latest plant to come out on strike in this city. New Haven, Meriden and Bridgeport are also affected.

HORSESHOERS ORGANIZE.

Danville, Ill., Nov. 25.—Journeymen horseshoers in this city have organized after months of persistent work on the part of the local union. They intend to get discouraged.

LONG-HOUR ALIENS CAN'T BE EDUCATED

Indianapolis, Nov. 25.—The United Mine Workers' Journal expresses its approval of the attempt of the federal department of labor to educate the non-speaking immigrant, but takes occasion to again call attention to the necessity for trade unionism among these workers.

"We fully approve of any plan conceived with the intent to assimilate the foreign-speaking workers," says the editor, "but we also recognize the greatest bar to the assimilation or the education of the foreign worker is the selfish interest of those who temporarily see profit in the division of the workers; who find in their ignorance of the language and of the standards of this land an opportunity to exploit, to maintain a rate of remuneration commensurate with the lower standard of living these immigrants were accustomed to in their old homes.

"We hold that the question of Americanization, of assimilation, is largely a question of better standards of living, of better opportunity for self-improvement and for higher citizenship. With the higher ambition, the brighter vision, made possible only with alleviation of economic pressure.

"The worker, foreign or native, who feels in the aspirations that he is more each day, seven days each week, can have no such visions. His mind is as much in a like exhausted body; the possessed night school holds out no opportunity to him.

"By no means it must be brought home to those men that, first, they must have opportunity which they must alleviate their economic conditions, must not under the grievous burden, the bearing of which saps all their physical and mental powers.

"And that, of course, means that they must be first educated to organization through united action, united protest against the conditions that tend to make of them the material for downward organization on the economic field—long hours unions."

"The labor union makes Americanization possible. With conditions such as can be secured through organization, co-operation on the economic field, the worker will find ways and means to self-education; without it, the best intended efforts to implant knowledge must fail to reach the overworked, underfed, exhausted worker."

RIGHT TO ORGANIZE, FIRST.

Chicago, Nov. 25.—"Our members must never lose sight of the fact that the first battle which the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies will be to establish the right to organize," says the Commercial Telegrapher Journal.

"This right must be made before any satisfactory agreement as to wages may be attempted, since only free men are capable of legislating for themselves. Any offer to the contrary may be objects of legislation, but never participate in the deliberations.

"Ordinarily this first step, the so-termed 'recognition of the union,' but the recognition of the right of the employe to belong to an organization is no longer disputed.

"The usual method of testing the sincerity of the workers is to discharge some of the leaders of the movement. If everything runs right after the first gun is fired, the employer chuckles, because he has staved off the inevitable once more. If, on the other hand, he finds that there is a solidarity behind the movement indicating earnestness, nerve and a willingness to fight for justice, a back-down on the employer's part usually follows and the right to organize is won.

"The Western Union, for example, has played this game with the boys time and again during the past 50 years. Sometimes they have lost, usually they have won. They have won because the telegraphers in the game has always been new and it will be on until the tactics of the opposition are understood."

ANOTHER STRIKE "SOLUTION."

Washington, Nov. 25.—Henry R. Towne, president of the Yale & Towne Manufacturing company, and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to accept his plan of avoiding strikes. He proposes a system of contracts between the railroads and their employes with the establishment of a board by both parties from whose decisions penalties will be paid for breach of contract there is no appeal. This further involves contracts which are individual between the railroad and each employe and not with a railroad employes' union.

The latter plan caused the New York street car strike of 1913, during which is still on. The Canadian industrial disputes act prohibits a strike or lockout in a public utility until after a commission investigates. Dominion trade unionists show that it is the public act in enforcing a lockout while the contrary is true when workers strike.

Mr. Towne's "solution" to industrial disputes would have the same ending.

HIGH WAGES; GREATER OUTPUT

Chicago, Nov. 25.—Van H. Manning, director of the bureau of mines, has told the convention of the American Mining Congress that American wages are responsible for the increase in the output per man and that American industries have overcome foreign competition "by the abundance of our natural resources, ingenuity of our inventors and improved machinery."

He protested against the low little regard for the health and safety of the miner, which has also contributed to it having become involved in an orgy of hasty exploitation and we are nearing the maximum production of the mines of several, though the original supply, if wisely mined and utilized, would have lasted many years longer and brought us ten times the wealth."

HOW A "NO-STRIKE" LAW WORKS

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The Mailers present their demand for a 5 per cent wage increase to the commissioner shortly four months ago. Now the commission tells these workers it has no money to investigate the books of the newspapers for the purpose of finding out whether the newspapers can pay the demand.

And if the mailers strike they will be jailed.

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SAME OLD WOLF; NEW GARB

New York, Nov. 25.—The anti-union Wolf has adopted a new garb—the National Industrial Conference Board, organized in this city last week, following the convention of the National Founders' association. It is stated that the new organization has a membership of 15,000 "captains of industry," with $4,000,000,000 capital.

Some of the units in the new organization are:

National Council for Industrial Defense—John Kirby, jr., chairman; James A. Emery, general counsel.

National Association of Manufacturers—Edward Keating, general counsel.

National Metal Trades' association.

National Erectors' association—Walter Drew, general counsel.

National Association of Manufacturers—George Pope, president.

The new organization will probably supersede the National Association of Manufacturers in the open warfare on employers hostile to remedial legislation. The latter organization passed under the control from which it never emerged when a congressional committee in 1913 investigated its lobbying methods. In the words of Representative Foster:

"We think it is offensive and outrageous that these associations should be allowed to organize and use their capitol buttonholing members, of congress as a means to induce them to remain away from the chamber when a vote was being taken."

While the same influences that are behind the National Association of Manufacturers are behind the new organization, it is said that the steel unionists have profited by the scorching they received at the hands of Representative Foster and Attorney Stanchfield, and will keep all their physical and mental powers.

"And that, of course, means that they must be first educated to organization through united action, united protest against the conditions that tend to make of them the material for downward organization on the economic field—long hours unions."

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SAYS PACKERS NOT TRUTHFUL

Syracuse, N. Y., Nov. 25.—At the annual convention of the American Hide Packers' association, the president declared that the numerous strikes in this industry during the past year in all employes have been satisfied and "there is absolutely no need for such disturbance."

These statements are denied by Secretary-Treasurer Homer B. Call, writing in The Butcher Workman, official newspaper of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen. He says:

"To find the packers in the meat industries who are satisfied you will be compelled to go into the offices, for the position of the men who work in the packing plants are now, and have been for many years, worse than African slavery. Under the present system a man is no longer considered as a human being, but is known as a unit and a cog in the machinery. He is no more than a thing, so to speak, but is compelled to bend over his work, making one continuous motion, until his back aches with pain. He is nervous and that for the paltry sum of less than an average of $7 per week."

WANT LIVING COST PROBED.

Baltimore, Nov. 25.—The A. F. of L. convention has declared in favor of the appointment of a federal commission to investigate the high cost of living and recommend to congress measures designed to remedy this situation. The resolution sets forth that "the prices of all necessaries of life have increased and are continuing to increase so rapidly as to constitute a menace to the standard of living of the American wage earner," and that "the enormous profits amassed by grain speculators, meat packers, mine owners, manufacturers, retailers and by jobbers and dealers in food and other commodities, as well as by the railroads, express companies and other public service corporations, indicate that these prices are largely extortionate and unjustifiable."

8-HOUR GIRLS THANK A. F. OF L.

Baltimore, Nov. 25.—Crown, Cork and Seal Operatives' union No. 14,294 of this city, sent to the A. F. of L. convention as follows:

"Believing you would be interested in our success in securing an increase in the A. F. of L., we desire to inform you that the 50 girls holding paid-up cards in this organization have won the eight-hour day, obtained the eight-hour work day.

"We desire to thank the A. F. of L. for the interest taken in our behalf in not only assisting us to obtain the eight-hour work day as against the 10-hour day, but aiding us in the four years of our union to procure a per capita monthly and the We feel proud of our advancement, or achievement, and therefore request this letter be read as a part of the thirty-sixth annual convention of the A. F. of L. in order that others may read, become interested and go and do likewise."

SHIRT MAKERS WIN STRIKE.

Coaldale, Pa., Nov. 25.—The J. W. Shirt company moved from New York to this place to defeat striking employes.

But the germ of unionism seems active in the water here, for the strikers, through the organization of a co-operative shirt company manager-ment discovered when its employes were found to be ignorant of the right to organize and improve conditions. Officers of the United Garment Workers' union are advised that the strikers who finally secured wage increases that average 10 per cent, and practically on January 1, when another agreement will be negotiated.

WOULD FLOOD LABOR MARKET.

Detroit, Nov. 25.—Trade unionists charge the Ford Motor company with attempting to flood this city with unemployed through lurid stories in eastern newspapers regarding labor conditions. It is stated that the cost of living is based on the wage scale of the Ford automobile plant, which, of course, other employers refuse to recognize, but who are constantly striving to reduce wages.

TILE LAYERS ADVANCE.

Baltimore, Nov. 25.—The Tile Layers and Helpers' union has won its strike for higher wages and the union shop. The new rates are: 1916, per day, $5.00; 1917, $5.50; 1918, $6.00; 1919, $6.50; 1920, $7.00 per day. The scale for helpers is: 1916, $3.50 per day; second year, $3.75; third year, $4.00.

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"Upon a consideration of the Adamson law and of what is said to be its purpose, effect, and what was intended to be accomplished by it, the judgment is that as the court construes the terms of the law, it cannot be sustained.

Judge Hook stated that while the government has the right to make investigation, its department of justice is entitled to every consideration in its plea for haste in settling the controversy. The court, therefore, issued the order for such forms that an appeal goes direct to the United States Supreme court, which convenes December 4 next. The court immediately issued the order Judge Hook that it would appeal from his decision.

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The court held a contrary opinion last May when it ruled that that portion of the law was unconstitutional because it was a legislative function and the state legislature has no right to delegate its power to a commission.

The state asked the court to review the case, and this petition was supported by the state federation of labor. In its later decision the court withdrew the former ruling, but declined to mark the boundaries of the commission's authority on the ground that each case must be judged by itself. The court says that "the law should be upheld for the reason that the authority conferred upon the industrial commission with no arbitrary and uncontrolled discretion, but directs them to investigate and report to legislature rules of law thereto under the prescribed rules and conditions. Such an investigative, fact finding body has prominence of executive and ministerial duties within the requirements provided in the act.

In the earlier decision, on the question of "dangerous" and "detrimental" and part right work. Justice Rosenberry ruled that since it was clearly in the province of the court to limit hours of labor for women's work, no matter what part of the day these hours prevailed, or whether they limit the amount of work done in any one day, meaning thereby the period from 10 o'clock at night to 6 in the morning 10 hours." This part of the former ruling is again upheld, the language of the latter ruling would seem to imply.

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A New York law prohibits the employment of married women at night and the corporation wants this law declared void as in conflict with the eighth amendment of the federal constitution and the fourteenth amendment to the state constitution. This plan further involves contracts which are individual between the railroad and each employe and not with a railroad employes' union.

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PRESS INFLUENCE WEAKENS

Trinidad, Col., Nov. 25.—Editor O'Neill of the Weekly Free Press says this to say of that portion of the public press that never fails to oppose remedial legislation urged by the workers:

"Not only was the Adamson law branded as worthless, but the child labor law was repudiated by these journals as a fake, notwithstanding the fact that both bills were fought by all the power and influence of organized labor.

"What was the purpose of this bought and paid for' press? The organs pledged to special interests had failed to arouse the people against the passage of these measures, and they reached the conclusion that if only the working class of the nation could be made to believe that they had been imposed upon by the passage of measures that were worthless, the plutocracy of Wall street could be confirmed in the White House at Washington.

"The people of this country are rapidly losing their confidence in those great daily journals, which are sometimes referred to as the 'molders of public opinion.'

"The people are realizing as never before that the vast majority of our daily publications are chained to the giant combines that are dominating and giving battle to every measure that broadens the liberty of laboring humanity.

"There was a time when the people had some faith in the logic and arguments presented by the daily press, but that time is passing away, for men who formerly looked to the daily press and file of American citizenship have about reached the conclusion that they must do their own thinking and analyze with care and caution every question and problem that affects the rights and freedom of that great mass, upon whose ability to solve for themselves the economic problems of the day depends the safety and stability of government."

HAS HIS FACE TO THE PAST.

Washington, Nov. 25.—Charles R. Van Hise, president of the University of Wisconsin, has evidently not heard of the Clayton law, which declares that labor is not a commodity and not a commodity or article of commerce.

This act removes labor from the Sherman anti-trust law and notifies the courts that they can no longer issue injunctions against workers on the theory that labor is a commodity.

President Van Hise, however, ignores this forward-looking legislation, and insists that if the federal government has the right to regulate the price of a car load of sewer pipe it should also be empowered to regulate the wages of labor.

He told the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, in session in this city, that "the solution is to be left to experts and statisticians at work all the time investigating the expenses of the railroads, wages, the cost of living and a comparison of these with other lines of industry. In determining what is a just wage and working hour."

The educator did not include living costs for unorganized workers and shareholders of these properties. According to his theory, only working men have to live economically, "experts and statisticians," and the opinion of these two would be the basis for wages and hours.

FARMERS ARE NON-PARTISAN.

Palatka, Fla., Nov. 25.—The American Federation of Labor is not the only organization that "punishes its friends and punishes its enemies," and refuses to be engulfed in partisan politics.

"The Farmers' union will stand by its friends whenever it finds them," said President Charles W. Barrett in his opening address to the annual convention of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America.

"The union has never been in partisan politics and will not be now," he said. "Yet right here you may take it from me that no amount of partisan lashing will drive from power the friends of its friends nor force it to sustain its political enemies. Knowing itself, its power and limitations, the union is determined to control itself. This simple, fundamental principle is not going to take its orders and directions from the outside."

DEATHS IN INDUSTRY APPALL.

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 25.—In calling attention to the growing anti-labor sentiment, welfare and efficiency conferences, held in this city this week, Commissioner Jackson of the state department of labor and industry, says:

"The industrial accidents for this year in Pennsylvania has already passed the 200,000 mark, with over 1,000 deaths, and will, I think, reach 260,000 by the end of the year with the corresponding number of deaths. It will be correct and successful action on the part of all to stop this enormous economic loss.

"In the last year in other countries but little distinct attention has been given to the problem of employment by the community as a whole. The financial waste to the whole people through industrial depression, by reason of this haphazard method of dealing with this most important factor, demands the very immediate and energetic attention."

CO-OPS. PAY DIVIDENDS.

Gillespie, Ill., Nov. 25.—The fourteenth quarterly report of the Gillespie Co-operative society shows a dividend of 6 per cent to members on the basis of purchases amounting to $1,200; paid interest to members on their share and loan capital, $140.58; put back into the business for their use, $12.25; put in reserve fund, $200. Sales to members totaled $17,211.44 and to non-members $3,748. Total resources amounted to $23,219.71.

SHOVELERS MAKE GAINS.

Springfield, Mass., Nov. 25.—The Shovelers' union has effected an agreement with contractors this city whereby arbitration will hereafter be resorted to instead of strikes and lockouts. The eight-hour day is granted, time and one-half for overtime, double time for Sunday and holiday work, and a minimum rate of $2.50 is agreed to.

PAPER STRIKE SETTLED.

Appleton, Wis., Nov. 25.—The strikes of organized paper and pulp workers against the Interlake Pulp and Paper company has been settled. The strike was called last June and resulted in much bitterness and disorder. The operation of strikebreakers and thugs, a new superintendent was finally secured and the strikers' demands were practically settled afterward.

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DENY SEVEN-DAY WEEK.

New York, Nov. 25.—One day rest in seven must be given employes of the Lackawanna Steel company under a ruling of the state industrial commission.

John Mitchell, chairman of the commission, said that the company had been given three weeks in which to file a schedule showing how it proposed to comply with the spirit and intent of the law. The commission will then pass upon the schedule.

The hearings were held in Buffalo and the company's inhuman proposal was opposed by trade unionists and other right thinking citizens.

COLORADO MINERS UNITE.

Colorado Springs, Col., Nov. 25.—President John McLennan of the state district, United Mine Workers' union, has organized the miners employed at the Pike View mine. This property is the largest in El Paso county and the union-ization is supposed to be practically impossible. It was the only mine in the county not dealing with union-unionists during the recent strike.

ACCEPT EMPLOYES' ADVICE

New York, Nov. 25.—The New York World publishes the following dispatch from Glasgow:

"The Pennsylvania railroad is experimenting with short freight trains on the Monongahela division in order to find out how an eight-hour day will work. So far by cutting a mile train or a half-mile train in two, enough time has been saved, the officials say, to indicate that runs may be made in eight hours, thus avoiding overtime."

The above would indicate that the efficiency plea of railroad employes is being tested, despite opposition of bankers, editors, stock-jobbing promoters and other "leaders" of public opinion.

Railroad employes have consistently insisted that the solution of the eight-hour problem was the employment of enough railroad is now crediting with doing.

DEATHS IN INDUSTRY APPALL.

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 25.—In calling attention to the growing anti-labor sentiment, welfare and efficiency conferences, held in this city this week, Commissioner Jackson of the state department of labor and industry, says:

"The industrial accidents for this year in Pennsylvania has already passed the 200,000 mark, with over 1,000 deaths, and will, I think, reach 260,000 by the end of the year with the corresponding number of deaths. It will be correct and successful action on the part of all to stop this enormous economic loss.

"In the last year in other countries but little distinct attention has been given to the problem of employment by the community as a whole. The financial waste to the whole people through industrial depression, by reason of this haphazard method of dealing with this most important factor, demands the very immediate and energetic attention."

CO-OPS. PAY DIVIDENDS.

Gillespie, Ill., Nov. 25.—The fourteenth quarterly report of the Gillespie Co-operative society shows a dividend of 6 per cent to members on the basis of purchases amounting to $1,200; paid interest to members on their share and loan capital, $140.58; put back into the business for their use, $12.25; put in reserve fund, $200. Sales to members totaled $17,211.44 and to non-members $3,748. Total resources amounted to $23,219.71.

SHOVELERS MAKE GAINS.

Springfield, Mass., Nov. 25.—The Shovelers' union has effected an agreement with contractors this city whereby arbitration will hereafter be resorted to instead of strikes and lockouts. The eight-hour day is granted, time and one-half for overtime, double time for Sunday and holiday work, and a minimum rate of $2.50 is agreed to.

PAPER STRIKE SETTLED.

Appleton, Wis., Nov. 25.—The strikes of organized paper and pulp workers against the Interlake Pulp and Paper company has been settled. The strike was called last June and resulted in much bitterness and disorder. The operation of strikebreakers and thugs, a new superintendent was finally secured and the strikers' demands were practically settled afterward.

STOCKHOLDER OBJECTS TO ANTI-UNION PLANS

New York, Nov. 25.—James H. Ecob, a stockholder in the Third Avenue Railway company, has written an open letter of protest to President Whitridge and the board of directors against their opposition to trade unionism, which has forced a strike on that street car line and other transportation systems in this city.

Mr. Ecob is an active member of the American Institute of Social Service in this city, and declares that two-thirds of the strike you are still denying conference or settlement with our most valuable and experienced employes. We cannot excuse the public to much longer tolerate such conditions as now.

"Assuming that the recent figures of the public service commission are correct, this company is giving about 62 per cent of normal service. This means a loss of about 40 per cent of business and income. This does not include the much heavier losses in the early weeks of the strike. The stockholders must either take cognizance of the methods pursued by you in this strike or submit to suffer the consequences of this business policy, with the probable suspension of dividends for an indefinite period.

"Both stockholders and management of a public utility company must keep before them the fact that a public utility is a social service institution as much as it is a private trading corporation. A public utility obtains its right to do business for profit from franchises given by the people. The people, therefore, that the stockholders remote as we are from the actual management, are, in fact, the real responsibilities, and must not let the business management side of our public utility dominate and overshadow its social service side. Wages and conditions of employment must be regarded as recognized not only as elements in the cost of operating, but as social service conditions of great importance to the whole community.

"Stockholders who pool their interests, delegate their power and authorize a management to represent them, must in reason be willing to permit it to pool their interests and authorize a management to represent them. It does not constitute unwarranted interference, you would think it absurd to criticise a company for getting a manager or a lawyer from Chicago or San Francisco. Why then, should you resent it if the people exercise the same right to get a representative from Detroit (headquarters of the street car men's union)?

"Union labor is the only kind we have. It is growing in strength and in favor with the public."

SWITCHMEN WORK LONG HOURS.

New York, Nov. 25.—Testifying before a federal arbitration board, railroad switchmen cited instances where they worked continuously from 8 o'clock in the saloon after eating lunch, causing them to lose their jobs when they failed to report for duty. One switchman, employed at Detroit, stated that he worked 16 hours a day, and at one time he is able to bring his earnings to a basis where he can support his family. Other switchmen testified that they frequently work 16 hours a day, 10 hours elapsing sometimes between lunch and the evening meal.

F. D. Reid, employed at the Chicago terminal of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, declared that he had seen a switchman crying because of long hours of service. Reid likened the switchman's organization to a "strong and husky," and that officials had formed on his eyebrows, which, according to Reid, "big ears" increased the danger of his work.

T. J. Hanrahan, yard conductor for the Northern Pacific at Portland, Oregon, told the board that when the eight-hour plan was first tried out it took seven additional crews to put it in force, but more cars were handled and at less cost than in previous years.

OREGON UNIONISTS WIN.

Olympia, Wash., Nov. 25.—The power of organized labor in this state was shown in the defeat of all referendum measures in the constitutional amendment at the recent election.

One proposal would destroy the direct legislation law by compelling all persons to sign petitions in the referendum affixing their residence and occupation. This would mean that before a farmer could sign a petition he would have to go to his state capitol, find out where his place and would end the practice of petitions being signed in localities.

Another law was also defeated. This was passed by the last legislature, but the unionists demanded that it be submitted to a referendum before enforcement. The act made it unlawful to publish any facts concerning any labor difficulty. Picketing was not only prohibited, but it was a crime for any person to picket in front of premises containing a statement of acts about any labor troubles.

The legislation was urged by the Manufacturers' association.

SHIP BUILDING IN U. S.

Washington, Nov. 25.—The seamen's law is a boon to ship owners, as the federal department of commerce states that 368 sailing, steam and motor vessels, aggregating 426,854 gross tons, were built in the United States during the 10 months ended November 1. In addition, there were constructed for foreigners 36 wooden vessels of 37,400 gross tons, 31 steel vessels of 25,413 gross tons. Of the total tonnage, 284,658 tons were steam craft.

OBJECT TO FREEZING COLD.

Omaha, Nov. 25.—The Plasterers' union has issued a rule that between November 1 and April 15 plasterers will not work on buildings unless that the windows must be put in.

Some contractors are objecting to this attempt of workers to shield themselves from wintry blasts. They say plaster dries better in this kind of weather, besides, it is not always zero weather during the prescribed period, ever these contractors.

R. R. PAYS FOR DELAY.

Washington, Nov. 25.—The United States Supreme court has affirmed a judgment for $12,500 in favor of Nathaniel Sprague, a railroad brakeman, against the Vandalia railroad for injuries in 1905 when he jumped from a speeding locomotive in fear of a boiler explosion. The court added an additional $500 on the verdict under a federal law providing that all silver or gold coins are appealed for apparently no other purpose than to delay final settlement.

MUSICIANS WIN RECOGNITION.

Bridgeport, Conn., Nov. 25.—Musicians' union has won its union shop demand and celebrated the event last night by a banquet attended by all the leaders in this organization.

STRIKE INJUNCTIONS SHOULD BE IGNORED

Baltimore, Nov. 24.—"Disregard strike injunctions, let the consequences be what they may," was the unanimous declaration of the convention of the American Federation of Labor, last Monday.

This position was taken mainly because of a recent decision by the Massachusetts supreme court which has been considered by the A. F. of L. executive council and which was reported to the convention. The court reversed a state law prohibiting strike injunctions. The law declared that the right to labor is a personal right and not a property right.

The convention sustained the report of its committee that the executive council "further pursue the investigation of the case, and if there be any opportunity for a test case in appeal, that that procedure be authorized by the convention.

"Your committee would further recommend that it be the sense of this convention that the issue be a fair, settled purpose of interests antagonistic to the freedom of men and women who toil, and that in addition to this that the judiciary to misconstrue constitutional guarantees, thereby nullify legislative enactments so as to bring into new remedy, and we, therefore, recommend that any legislation dealing with the relationship of employer and employe, and based upon the dictum, Labor Is Not a Commodity, in which the absolutely treated as usurpation and disregarded, let the consequences be what they may.

"Such a decision as that rendered by the supreme court of the state of Massachusetts is a menace to civil rights, interests; it is usurpation and tyranny.

"Precedent has no man because he believed that resistance to tyrants is obedience to God; as it came so it must be swept away.

"Kings could be and were disobeyed, and sometimes deposed. In cases of tyranny judges must be disobeyed, and should be impeached."

WAGE INCREASE A "FLUFF."

Syracuse, N. Y., Nov. 25.—The recent widely-heralded wage increases that most employers voluntarily granted their employes is commented on as follows by Secretary-Treasurer Homer B. Call, of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen:

"At last all the employers made the bluff of increasing wages of all employes $1-2 cents per hour, we felt confident that it was only a matter of time, but with no intention of continuing it.

"The following extract from one letter received practically explains the situation. The writer says:

"The increase was raise through the press of the country some time ago has never been secured here. Some few weeks after the raise through the press one of the largest firms signed a petition asking that they were immediately discharged.'

Secretary-Treasurer Call declares that the increase was granted "to stop the stampede" thrown to employes to have them believe they would receive better treatment, but as soon as the storm is stated, says the unionist, "that it has not been carried out in many localities and wherever the workers have not benefited in the discharge of the employes."

"Trade unionists everywhere are urged to depend upon themselves and join the union of their craft, instead of depending upon the "generosity" of most leaders.

VAST PROFITS IN COAL.

Philadelphia, Nov. 25.—President Wilson's recent statement before a convention of organized farmers in Washington that profiteering in coal and other high prices was recalled at a public hearing in this city yesterday revealed high profits in the coal business. Officials of Eli H. Markle Coal company, of Jeddo, said that on an investment of $1,000 the Markle concern was enabled to pay during the years 1914 and 1915 respective dividends of 25, 50, 40 and 40 per cent. He said the output was sold through the Lehigh Coal Sales company, a 50-50 selling agency, which has four more years to run. The Markle mines are